IN THE MATTER OF

* BEFORE THE MARYLAND

ALISHA GRINDER,

* STATE BOARD OF

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

* PHARMACY

Registration No.: T05132

* Case No.: 21-184

* * * * * * * * * *

<u>ORDER</u>

On or about July 21, 2021, the Maryland State Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") notified **Alisha Grinder** (the "Respondent"), of its intent to revoke her registration to practice as a Pharmacy Technician ("Pharm Tech") in Maryland, registration number T05132, based on violations of the Maryland Pharmacy Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations ("Health Occ"), §§ 12-101 *et seq*. (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2020 Supp.).

The pertinent provisions of law are as follows:

Health Occ. § 12-6B-09. Grounds for reprimand or denial, probation, suspension, or revocation of registration.

Subject to the hearing provision of § 12-315 of this title, the Board may . . . , reprimand a registered pharmacy technician, place any registered pharmacy technician on probation, or suspend or revoke a registered pharmacy technician's registration if the ... pharmacy technician registrant:

- (3) Fraudulently uses a pharmacy technician's registration;
- (23) Violates any provision of this title;
- (25) Violates any regulation adopted by the Board;

The pertinent provision of the regulations adopted by the Board are as follows:

COMAR 10.34.10.01 Patient Safety and Welfare

B. A pharmacist may not:

(3) Engage in unprofessional conduct.

More than thirty (30) days elapsed since the Respondent was notified of the Board's charges and his opportunity to request a hearing, and the Respondent failed to request a hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The Board finds the following facts:
- 2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent practiced as a Pharm Tech in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was first registered as a Pharm Tech in Maryland on or about April 17, 2009. The Respondent's registration is scheduled to expire on August 31, 2022.

Complaint

- 3. On or about February 17, 2021, the Board received a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Form 106, Report of Theft or Loss of Controlled Substances (the "Complaint") from a national chain Pharmacy located in Aberdeen, Maryland (the "Pharmacy"). 1
- 4. The form states that on or about January 6, 2021, the loss of the controlled dangerous substances (CDS) was identified because of a suspected or actual employee theft due to employee theft, specifically as follows:

¹ For confidentiality and privacy purposes, the names of individuals and facilities involved in this case are not disclosed in this document. Upon written request, the Administrative Prosecutor will provide the information to the Respondent.

Medication & Dosage	Quantity
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Clonazepam 0.5mg	114
Hydrocodone-Acetaminophen 5-325mg	261
Hydrocodone-Acetaminophen 7.5-325mg	63
Oxycodone-Acetaminophen 5-325mg	181
Oxycodone HCL 5mg	37
Phentermine 37.5mg	44
Hydrocodone-Acetaminophen 7.5-325mg	1
Phentermine 37.5mg	315
Phentermine 37.5mg	21
Oxycodone HCL 10mg	23
Clonazepam 1mg	222
Clonazepam 0.5mg	27
Tramadol HCL 50mg	181
Dextroamp-Amphet ER ("Adderall") 25mg	1
Tramadol HCL 50mg	236
Tramadol HCL 50mg	155

5. Based on the Complaint, the Board initiated an investigation.

Investigation

- 6. Subsequently, on March 12 and March 18, 2021, pursuant to a subpoena, the Board obtained additional documentation from the Pharmacy regarding the Pharmacy's internal investigation into the theft.
- 7. The documentation indicated that on or about December 29, 2020, the Pharmacy's manager reported to the Pharmacy's Protection Management that the Respondent, who was employed there as a Pharm Tech, had diverted several tablets of Adderall and Oxycodone. Based on the manager's report, the Pharmacy initiated an investigation that included reviewing in-store security video and inventory data, and interviewing the Respondent. The investigation identified further instances of the Respondent diverting CDS without authorization.
- 8. The documentation obtained by the Board included a January 6, 2021 voluntary written statement by the Respondent admitting that she stole CDS "on several occasions," including: clonazepam, tramadol, phentermine, oxycodone, and Adderall. In the statement, the Respondent cited stressful personal issues as the reason for her actions.
- 9. On or about January 6, 2021, the Respondent was terminated from the Pharmacy based on the theft.
- 10. Based on the information provided to the Board by the Pharmacy, the Board has reason to believe that the Respondent diverted multiple medications over an extended time span.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Respondent's conduct, as described above, constitute violations of the Act and the regulations adopted by the Board as cited above.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing, it is by the Board hereby:

ORDERED that the Respondent's registration to practice as a Pharmacy Technician ("Pharm Tech") in Maryland, registration number T05132, is hereby REVOKED; and it is further

ORDERED that this document constitutes an Order of the Board and is therefore a public document for purposes of public disclosure, as required by Md. Code Ann., General Provisions, §§ 4-101 through 4-601 (Repl. Vol. 2014 & 2020 Supp.).

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Health Occ. § 12-316, the Respondent has the right to take a direct judicial appeal. Any appeal shall be filed within thirty (30) days from the date of this Final Order and shall be made as provided for judicial review of a final decision in the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act, Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-222 (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2020 Supp.); and Title 7, Chapter 200 of the Maryland Rules of Procedure.

If the Respondent files an appeal, the Board is a party and should be served with the court's process at the following address:

> Deena Speights-Napata, M.A., Executive Director Maryland State Board of Pharmacy 4201 Patterson Avenue

Baltimore, Maryland 21215

At that point, the Administrative Prosecutor is no longer a party to this case and need not be served or copied.

Date

Jewnifer L. Hardesty, Pharm.D, Presiden